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would be impossible to force New York's scattered business of wholesale marketing into public markets, and because the tendency in metropolitan cities is dissemination and not concentration of sales of produce in bulk. (3) He concludes that a saving of 20 per cent to the consumer of moderate means can be brought about through developing to the fullest extent the legitimate trade of the pushcart. As to the quality of the stock sold by the pushcart peddlers, he quotes from a report, published on March 26, 1913, issued by the commission appointed by Mayor Gaynor to investigate street venders. The report of the commission was corroborated by the aldermanic committee's report on the same subject published the following month. The commission says: "It has been found that the foodstuffs sold by the peddlers are nearly uniformly wholesome. These and other commodities are sold at a considerably less cost than obtained in stores." The aldermanic committee's report he quotes as follows: "The quality of food and merchandise sold from these pushcarts is in the main of as good a quality as can be bought anywhere else in the city, and much cheaper." He discusses the phenomenal success of pushcart markets in European cities, especially those in Paris, Berlin and London. (4) His fourth significant conclusion is that the open air market is worthy of greater public effort. The open air market, like street vending, has been opposed in many American cities by boards of health and others on the ground that there is not ample protection of foods from dust and unwholesomeness. Mr. Sullivan urges that these objections can be largely overcome. He points out that European cities have succeeded in giving ample protection to their open-air markets. The open-air markets in European cities have thrived whereas the closed retail markets have been less successful. Twelve of the 30 open-air markets in Paris are held three times a week while 18 are held twice a week. There are over 17,000 standing applications for places in the market. In the 30 markets there are now 6,296 stands, 2,600 of which are fruit and vegetable, 402 fish, 430 cheese and eggs, 77 bread, 540 meat, 308 delicatessen, 991 manufactured merchandise. The number of venders using these stands probably totals more than 15,000. This is in the Paris market alone. He avers that a similar development in American cities would most definitely decrease food costs to the consumer.

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USHER, ABBOTT P. *The History of the Grain Trade in France, 1400-1710*. Pp. xv, 405. Price, \$2.00. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1913.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Usher has published his book without more fully mastering his material. One is not reassured to read in the appendix upon bibliography [the brevity of which he explains by the rather arbitrary statement that "a complete list of the sources would be too voluminous in extent and too general in character to be of any assistance"] that "the quantity of material that was available forced me to limit my work to what may be called the Parisian and Lyonesse manuscripts. . . . It was impossible to examine this material thoroughly. . . . A few days' work was

done in the municipal archives at Dijon. . . . In the time available it was possible to examine only such material as lay on the surface." The very title of the book is misleading, for the history of the subject before the time of Colbert is superficially treated. Moreover, not France as a whole, as implied in the title, but only certain areas of the country have been examined, i.e., the basin of the Seine and its affluents, the Lyonnais and Burgundy. Languedoc and Provence are scarcely noticed before the end of the seventeenth century. The first chapter, upon markets and market organization, is written from data pertaining to the reign of Louis XIV. Partial amend for this neglect of earlier material pertaining to market organization is made in chapter II upon the history of the Parisian market. Yet here only eight pages are given to the grain trade before 1520. Since Mr. Usher chose to begin with Philip IV, he ought to have written something more than the flabby paragraph on pp. 47-48. The important ordonnance of July 8, 1315, sec. 94, is not even mentioned. The five pages, 48-53, devoted to the grain trade of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries are introduced by a complaint regarding "paucity of information." Yet the *Journal d'un bourgeois de Paris* is filled with information. For prices, see pp. 11, 120, 130, 136, 148, 234, 262, 288, etc.; for abundance of grain, pp. 11, 154, 175, 218, 227, 295, 300, etc.; for scarcity, pp. 120, 122, 136, 145, 148, 262, 291, etc. See also Flammermont: *Histoire de Senlis pendant la guerre de cent ans*, pp. 64, 73-74, 77-78. Mr. Usher is advised to examine the volumes of the *Ordonnances* with more care, e.g. XII, 304-5; XIV, 369; XIX, 30, 86, 88, etc. When the English wars in France ended prosperity returned. But there is no treatment of the agricultural recovery during the last half of the fifteenth century. What effect did the widened area of wheat cultivation have upon the grain trade? Mr. Usher will find food for thought in Imbart de la Tour: *Les origines de la reforme*, pp. 222-223, and the notes may suggest future sources of research. The history of the grain trade in the sixteenth century is more fully written, yet much of interest—not to say of importance—has here also escaped the author's observation. The account of the legislation of Francis I, on pp. 228-229 is confused, and misleading. The decree of February 3, 1535, was a confirmation of the ordonnance of February 20, 1534, which Mr. Usher has missed. (See Fontanon III, 92; Isambert, XII, 403.) He quotes the opening words of the ordonnance of June 20, 1539, providing for free interprovincial grain traffic and remarks: "[They] lead us to suppose that there had been previous edicts, but the reference is doubtless to the special letters patent issued to various governors." The important fact that internal free trade in grain actually was authorized by *edict* in 1534 he has failed to perceive.

The paragraph on p. 236 is much too brief. No allusion is made to the edict of 1583 authorizing the free transportation of grain between the provinces, certainly an important act even if only temporary; and surely the drastic commandeering of grain by the government to withstand the siege of Paris in the second civil war ought not to have been passed over. In a book which professes to be an historical treatment it is curious to see how large an amount of data pertaining to the subject has been ignored, as for instance, the increase or decrease in area of wheat cultivation, the bearing of good harvests and

poor crops, the fall in land values as an aristocracy of gentlemen farmers inclined to become a court nobility, and the consequent acquisition of land by the peasantry. If Mr. Usher can divorce phenomena like these from the history of the grain trade he has a narrow view of the subject. It were well for him to examine the journal of Claude Haton, the parish priest in Provins, and the Abbé Denis' studies in the history of agriculture in the department of the Seine and Marne [Meaux, 1881].

Mr. Usher quotes Article 419 of the great ordonnance of 1629 [Code Michaud] without comment and ignores entirely Articles 420-426. He cites by date ten ordonnances between 1625 and 1655 without analysis and dismisses the subject thus: "This barren review of Letters Patent and edicts can hardly have failed to weary the reader. The royal attempts have so little connection with the real problems of the sixteenth [*sic*] century trade that the study of the royal policy is without interest except for the antiquarian." It were charity to forbear criticism of this puerile statement. If historical interest in the economic legislation of the French monarchy over a generation of time be mere antiquarianism, then I, for one, would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the antiquary than to dwell in the house of an historian who fails to see aught of interest in these edicts.

It is an unpalatable task to review a book adversely. But it is the reluctant opinion of the reviewer that only the latter part of this work can be regarded as remotely satisfactory. Even there the limitations are glaring. As a whole the work is an amorphous combination of ill-digested material. Its publication ought to have been withheld until the subject had been more thoroughly studied and better composed, for the arrangement of material seems as eccentric as the treatment of it. It is a canon of historical composition that historical data in time and place must be set forth clearly in the presentation of the subject. Arrangement is for the historian what perspective is for the artist. Finally, the author's observations sometimes baffle understanding. What, for example, does this cryptic sentence on p. 48 mean? "The marked institutional advance of the later thirteenth century was a crisis, which was followed in the grain trade, as in other matters, by a period of relative stagnation."

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WARREN, G. F. *Farm Management*. Pp. xviii, 590. Price, \$1.75. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

A student of economics is likely to treat with respect a book which frequently applies the recognized principles of economic science to the broader problems of the farmer.

We find here for example our old familiar principle, the regulation of prices by costs. "There do not appear to be any types of farming that are regularly more profitable than other types, provided each type is conducted where it belongs. . . . If some one thing is paying abnormal profits, it will soon be at the bottom of the list because of over-production" (p. 152). The failure to understand this results in periodic over-production and under-